Context Aware Server Devices

ABSTRACT

5   A server system and method in which the server determines whether a requesting client is accessing a requested document or page in a manner contemplated by the server. The server may first determine whether the client has direct access authority such as by interpreting cookie information supplied with the client request. The client may obtain direct access authority if the client has previously accessed server documents in a prescribed manner. If the client lacks direct

10   access, the server may determine if the client has been referred or quoted to the requested page by a third party server or referrer that has authority to refer clients to the requested page. The server device may maintain a table of information in its storage to facilitate the determination of which referring parties have authority to which documents on the server. If the server determines that a particular request lacks both direct access authority and indirect authority, the

15   server may return a version of the requested document (the unauthorized version) that indicates the lack of authority. The server may generate the unauthorized version of a document from the authorized version by executing a script to insert text or otherwise change the appearance of the returned document.